

CLAIMS

1 1. An operator control unit for operator control
2 of a reproduction system, the control unit comprising:
3 display means for displaying operating screens;
4 operator control means for making selections on said
5 operating screens;
6 a first memory for storing a template sentence
7 containing a series of words and word fields;
8 a second memory for storing word sets corresponding
9 to the word fields, each said word set containing word
10 units;
11 generator means for generating a first operating
12 screen for displaying the template sentence and for
13 displaying corresponding word sets near said word fields;
14 word unit means for selecting a word unit from one
15 of said word sets in response to user actuation of said
16 operator interface in order to include the word unit in a
17 corresponding word field;
18 instruction selection means for selecting a
19 processor instruction based upon said template sentence
20 and the selected word units;
21 confirmation means for confirming the selected word
22 units in response to further user actuation of said
23 operator interface; and
24 processor means for performing the processor
25 instruction selected by the instruction selection means
26 when the confirmation means is activated by the user.

1 2. The operator control unit according to
2 the preceding claim 1, wherein:
3 there are at least two corresponding word sets for
4 each of said word fields, the operator control unit
5 further comprising
6 word set selection means for selecting one of the at
7 least two corresponding word sets for display on the
8 screen near the corresponding word field, on the basis of
9 a word unit selected in another word field.

1 3. The operator control unit according to claim 2,
2 wherein said operator control means has a repetitive mode
3 of operation such that word set selection is blocked for
4 a period of the repetitive operation for the purpose of
5 selecting a word unit in the other word field.

1 4. The operator control unit according to claim 1,
2 wherein the first memory stores at least two template
3 sentences and the operator control unit ^{further}~~further~~
4 comprises:

5 means for selecting a template sentence in
6 dependence on the ^eselections made so far by the operator
7 on the operating screen.

1 5. The operator control unit according to claim 1,
2 further comprising:

3 means for modifying a template sentence in
4 dependence on selected word units.

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1 6. The operator control unit according to claim 1,
2 wherein said generator means depicts the template
3 sentence along a first axis and said word sets along a
4 second axis extending perpendicularly to the first axis
5 and intersecting the template sentence at the
6 corresponding word fields, respectively.

1 7. The operator control unit according to claim 1,
2 wherein the selected instruction instructs the processor
3 means to display a help screen.

1 8. The operator control unit according to claim 1,
2 wherein the control means is constructed as cascade keys.

1 9. A reproduction apparatus comprising:
2 at least one of a scanning unit for scanning images
3 and a network interface for receiving print jobs;
4 a third memory for storing at least one of scanned
5 images and print jobs, respectively;
6 a printing unit for printing at least one of scanned
7 images and print jobs;
8 a central control unit for controlling said memory,
9 said printing device and said at least one of said
10 scanning device and said network interface to cooperate
11 and so print printing at least one of scanned images and
12 print jobs; and
13 an operator control unit including:
14 display means for displaying operating screens;
15 control means for making selections on said
16 operating screens;

17 a first memory for storing a template sentence
18 containing a series of words and word fields;

19 a second memory for storing word sets
20 corresponding to the word fields, each said word set
21 containing word units;

22 generation means for generating a first
23 operating screen for displaying the template
24 sentence and for displaying corresponding word sets
25 near said word fields;

26 unit word means for selecting a word unit from
27 one of said word sets in response to user actuation
28 of said operator interface in order to include the
29 word unit in a corresponding word field;

30 instruction selection means for selecting a
31 processor instruction based upon said template
32 sentence and the selected word units;

33 confirmaiton means for confirming the selected
34 word units in response to further user actuation of
35 said operator interface; and

36 processor means for performing the processor
37 instruction selected by the instruction selection
38 means when the ^{ir}confirmation means is activated by
39 the user.

1 10. In an operator control unit for operator
2 control of a reproduction system, a method of interfacing
3 with a user, the method comprising:

4 storing, in a first memory, a template sentence
5 containing a series of words and word fields;

6 storing, in a second memory, word sets corresponding
7 to the word fields, each said word set containing word
8 units;

9 generating a first operating screen depicting said
10 template sentence and corresponding word sets near said
11 word fields;

12 selecting a word unit from one of said word sets in
13 response to user actuation of an operator interface in
14 order to include the word unit in a corresponding word
15 field;

16 selecting a processor instruction based upon said
17 template sentence and the selected word units;

18 confirming the selected word units in response to
19 further user actuation of said operator interface; and

20 executing the selected instruction in response to
21 said step of confirming said selected instruction.

1 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the
2 template sentence is depicted along a first axis and said
3 word sets are depicted along a second axis extending
4 perpendicularly to the first axis and intersecting the
5 template sentence at the corresponding word fields,
6 respectively.